

**Alex at the San Diego Workforce Partnership  
Bridge to Employment in the Healthcare Industry Program**

Alex came to the Bridge to Employment program because she was struggling to make ends meet with her previous employment options. She was seeking assistance in obtaining an entry-level certificate and job experience in the healthcare field. Her long-term goal is to become a nurse, but she recognized she would need to take several steps along the way, starting with a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate and then hopefully pursuing a Licensed Vocational Nurse certificate.

Alex shared the difficulties of being a single mother with her navigator and identified childcare and housing as her most pressing barriers. Due to her strong work ethic, she had a good work history but no formal job training post-high school. This situation created a skills gap barrier as well. After she enrolled in the program, Alex was forced to move from her previously stable housing, adding yet another barrier to her employment goals. She contacted her navigator to explore resources and options for housing while she completed training.

The Bridge to Employment program assisted Alex by developing a plan that addressed barriers and identified types of support the program could give her. They included tuition support to cover the cost of the CNA program as well as transportation assistance and items required by the CNA training program. Alex was between jobs during this period, and she lacked financial resources to cover these important items. By working with her navigator during her housing crisis, she was able to identify other housing options. The program assisted in covering the expense of her CNA licensure and also provided support and accountability toward that goal.

Currently Alex is in a stable housing situation and has completed all of the course requirements for the CNA program. She is working toward retaking her CNA exam and has obtained full-time employment as a caregiver at Las Villas del Norte. Her new employment was made possible by her recent training as a CNA. She has also identified an LVN program and completed the admissions steps to get started in October 2012.